

**Act No. 155 (S.247). Health; use of marijuana for therapeutic purposes**

**An act relating to the regulation of marijuana for symptom relief and dispensaries**

This act makes several changes to the medical marijuana registry and the provisions regulating medical marijuana dispensaries.

The six-month relationship required between an applicant patient and his or her health care professional signing the medical verification form is waived for persons diagnosed with a terminal illness, cancer with distant metastases, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Naturopaths with a special license endorsement authorizing the individual to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription medicines may now sign the medical verification forms to qualify a patient for the registry. Applicant caregivers will no longer be automatically excluded due to a prior drug conviction and the Department of Public Safety will make determinations on such applications on a case-by-case basis guided by rules adopted by the Department.

The act lifts the 1,000 patient cap for total number of registered patients who may obtain marijuana from a licensed dispensary. Dispensaries will be permitted to deliver marijuana to patients and caregivers in accordance with rules adopted by the Department. Dispensaries will also be allowed to grow hemp and produce and sell products made from hemp that are intended for symptom relief.

The act requires the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health, to review and report on the existing research on the treatment of the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as the existing research on the use of marijuana for relief of the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. The Department must report its findings to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2015.

Finally, the act requires the Secretary of Administration to report to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2015 regarding the taxation and regulation of marijuana in Vermont.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 27, 2014